troops close to the India-Pakistan border in November, 1986 under the pretext of taking precautionary measures against the movement of Indian Army formations in connection with Exercise 'Brass Tacks'. Our Armed Forces took steps necessary to ensure full defence preparedness.

(c) Following the agreement reached between the two countries in official level talks, to defuse the situation, withdrawal of troops is being carried out in phases along the international border.

Canadian assistance

1886. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Canada offered $89 Million worth assistance to the Government of India;

(b) whether the offer has been considered and if so, with what result; and

(c) what are the details of the assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) Canada has offered an assistance of C$89 Million for the oilseeds Development Project-Phase II to be implemented by the National Dairy Development Board This assistance will be in grant form. The offer has been accepted by the Government in principle and the details are being worked out. Under the proposal, Canada has offered to provide Canadian Canola (rapeseed) oil along with the financing of related purchasing and transportation costs up to a value of C$85 Million, as well as professional services for monitoring, evaluation, technical assistance, and scientific and technical equipment, materials and supplies up to a value of C$4 Million.

Transfer of staff to overseas branches by Nationalised Banks

1887. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the rules, guidelines and the criteria followed in the nationalised banks for transfer of staff to their overseas branches;

(b) the number of years for which the panel approved for transfer of staff is kept alive; and

(c) whether there have been any cases of transfer of staff to overses branches as were effected in contravention of the prescribed rules and guidelines and if so, the number of such cases during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) In order to bring about uniformity in the criteria to be followed by Public Sector Banks for personnel placement in foreign branches, in August, 1986 Government have issued guidelines to public sector banks having branches abroad. These guidelines provide for a tenure of a maximum period of five years at a stretch in overseas branches (except in U.K. where the period would be three years); preparation of a panel of eligible officers and imparting intensive advance training to the selected officers; rules for acceptance of resignation while serving abroad; and procedure for obtaining only official pass-ports for fresh posting as well as for officers already working abroad. About the validity period of the panel prepared for officers to be posted abroad, it is learnt from Reserve Bank of India that major banks keep the panels alive from 1 to 3 years.